



Borough of Warwick.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

HEALTH OF THE DISTRICT

FOR THE YEAR 1944,

BY

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MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

OF THE

Warwickshire Combined Districts.

Leamington Spa :

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1945.

1, MILVERTON HILL,
LEAMINGTON SPA,
September, 1945.

To the Council of the Borough of Warwick.

MR. MAYOR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

Herewith the Report for 1944, and it is of special personal interest to me as it marks the completion of 25 years in your service.

As instructed by the Ministry of Health, the Report is only a short statement of fact. For the first time for several years, statistics can be printed in connection with population, etc. ; it is to be hoped that in the future it will be possible to give further details when printing, paper, etc., are more available.

With many thanks for much kindness on the part of the members of the Council and my colleagues.

I am, Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

H. GIBBONS WARD,
Medical Officer of Health.

Borough of Warwick.

A. EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

Population (estimated) Mid-year, 1944	...	...	14,300
Birth Rate	...	...	21.7
Still Births—Rate per 1,000 total births	...	...	25
Death Rate	...	...	11.9
Deaths from Diseases and Accidents of Pregnancy and Child-birth	{ From Sepsis ,, other causes	...	1 —
Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age :—			
All Infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	23
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births			24
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...	...	—
Death from Measles (all ages)	...	...	—
,, ,, Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	—
,, ,, Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...	...	1

B. GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

Public Health Officers.—No change.

Laboratory Facilities.—Bacteriological examinations by Birmingham University :—

	Positive.	Negative.	Total.
*Diphtheria	33	211	244
*Enteric Fever	—	—	—
Tuberculosis	3	11	14
			258

*This includes specimens sent from Heathcote Isolation Hospital.

C. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

1. (i) *Water Supply.*—The preparations of a scheme for an increased supply are well advanced. Samples, both chemical and bacteriological, of water from the public supply have been submitted for analysis and have given entirely satisfactory results. The daily consumption of water, including that for trade purposes, was 35.81 gallons per head of population.

There are only 19 houses served by private wells, the proportion of population obtaining water from the public mains being 99.5 per cent. Of the dwellings served by mains, 3,692 houses, or 91.4 per cent. of all houses in the Borough, have water either in the house or, as in many cases, in a detached wash-house. There are 346 houses having to share taps; 143 taps (either as standpipes or in common wash-houses) serve these 346 houses.

(ii) *Drainage and Sewage Treatment*.—No change to report.

2. (i) *Rivers and Streams*.—A serious pollution of the river Avon occurred at one point in the Borough. This was found to arise from a harmful trade waste which was alleged to have been discharged accidentally from a Metal Plating plant. Steps were taken to prevent a recurrence.

3. (i) *Closet Accommodation*.—Twenty-eight new water closets were erected, four new urinals and eighteen lavatory basins were installed.

(ii) *Public Cleansing*.—The collection of house refuse was speeded up during the year, but it was not possible to revert to a weekly collection owing to insufficient labour.

(iii) *Sanitary Inspection of the Area*.—Table I. gives a summary of the work of the Sanitary Inspector.

(iv) *Shops (Shops Act, 1934)*.—Three notices calling for improvements to sanitary accommodation and means of heating at shops were complied with.

Smoke Nuisances.—The use of inferior fuel and the employment of unskilled stokers—both unavoidable at the present time—have caused a marked deterioration in the position regarding smoke abatement. Several complaints of nuisance from the emission of excessive quantities of black smoke from factory chimneys were received, but the previously mentioned difficulties have prevented the complete abatement of the nuisance.

One notice in respect of a dairy chimney was issued. In this case a supply of more suitable fuel was allowed and at the end of the year an order for improvements to the steam raising plant had been placed by the firm.

(vi) *Vermin Infestations*.

Rats and Mice.—The services of an operative were shared equally with the Borough of Leamington Spa during a period of

six months. He was engaged largely on investigations to supplement the initial survey which had been made under the instructions of the Ministry of Agriculture. No further serious rat infestations were revealed, and as the major infestations were being dealt with satisfactorily by the Warwickshire War Agricultural Executive Committee under contracts, and sporadic minor infestations received adequate attention by occupiers, the services of the operative were discontinued.

A test baiting of part of the sewerage system was carried out and revealed no serious trouble. In the period during which the operative was engaged, nine premises were successfully disinfested.

Bed-bug Infestations.—The Housing Survey revealed widespread beg-bug infestations in dwellinghouses, particularly in old and poor houses. Eight houses were successfully treated by Corporation workmen, and in many other cases advice was given and a supply of suitable insecticide made available.

Disinfestation Services.—Although it was found that a rat operative could not be kept fully employed on alternate weeks, it is suggested that one man is necessary for the combined work of rat killing, bug disinfestation, and disinfection. This would enable a more efficient service to be maintained than obtains at present, when occupiers' requirements cannot always be met.

The need for ensuring that bed-bugs are not conveyed by tenants from old houses to municipal houses was stressed in the Report on Housing submitted during the year. More recent inspections of municipal houses have added further evidence to support this view.

D. HOUSING.

No new houses were erected, but one house left unfinished at the outbreak of war was completed during the year.

The Housing Survey authorised by the Council in April, 1943, to ascertain the number of houses which are unfit for human habitation and to determine action in relation to them was concluded during the year. A special report was submitted. This revealed that 1,214 houses are unfit for habitation and that at least 834 of them ought to be demolished as soon as circumstances permit.

Notices to secure the execution of urgent repairs were confined to Public Health Act procedure. In future years it will be necessary to use the more comprehensive provisions of

the Repairs Section of the Housing Act to ensure adequate repairs of hundreds of dwellings. As the inspections for, and preparation of, notices issued under the Housing Act will demand a great deal of time, the services of a qualified assistant will be essential.

Public Health Act, 1936 : Inspections.—One thousand three hundred and forty inspections and re-inspections were made for the purposes of the Public Health Act.

Most of the 451 Public Health Act notices issued related to dwellinghouses defects of a general nature, and were limited to matters calling for particularly urgent attention. Even so, It became evident that the work required by these notices had far exceeded the labour capacity of the local builders and, as will be seen from Table I., many of the notices had not received attention at the end of the year, although owners had shown little reluctance to placing orders.

The increasing extent of dilapidations and the extreme difficulties experienced in effecting repairs is, to say the least, disquieting. Builders usually co-operate readily in attending to most urgent work first, but it is obvious that, quite apart from labour needed for new building, a vastly increased number of men are required for maintenance repairs on the town if the arrears are to be made good and further dilapidations avoided.

E. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

MILK AND DAIRIES.

Registers.—The following make up the current registers :—

Cowkeepers who are also retail purveyors of milk	6
Cowkeepers who are not retail purveyors of milk	10
Dairymen and retail purveyors of milk not included in above	21
Dairy farms	16
Dairies other than farms	8

Dairy premises.—All cowsheds and dairies were inspected regularly during the year, a total of 195 inspections being made.

Further improvements in dairy premises were obtained. An existing building was converted into a bottling establishment to meet the needs of a retail purveyor. This building is lined with white tiles throughout, and has separate rooms for

bottle and churn washing, milk bottling and milk storage, and is equipped with hot water installation, a small bottle cleaning machine and a refrigerator. A new building, built on similar lines, but with a glazed brick interior, was nearly ready for use at the end of the year. At another bottling establishment a new refrigerator was installed.

One cowshed was entirely reconstructed and improvements were made in several cooling-houses at farms, including, in one case, the provision of a new steam sterilizer.

There were far less complaints regarding the keeping quality of milk retailed in the town than during previous years. The improvement can be attributed principally to (a) the greatly increased proportion of milk produced in nearby districts and pasteurised in the town compared with the previous arrangement whereby pasteurised milk was brought from far afield, and (b) improved bottle washing and bottle filling methods in local bottling establishments.

Milk (Special Designations) Orders, 1936 to 1942.—The following licences were in operation during the year :—

Dealers' Licences to use designation	" Tuberculin Tested"...	4
„ „ „ „	" Pasteurised"	1
Supplementary Licences to use designation		
	" Tuberculin Tested "	1
„ „ „ „	" Pasteurised " ...	3

Samples for Bacteriological Examination.—Sixty-one samples of milk were submitted for bacteriological examination. The following table sets out the results :—

<i>Class of Milk.</i>	<i>Satisfactory.</i>	<i>Unsatisfactory.</i>	<i>Totals.</i>
<i>Ordinary.</i>			
From farms in Borough	...	3 ... 1 ...	4
From farms in other districts	...	1 ... 2 ...	3
<i>Accredited.</i>			
From farms in other districts	...	6 ... 6 ...	12
<i>Tuberculin Tested.</i>			
From farms in Borough...	...	1 ... — ...	1
From bottled milk produced in other districts...	4 ... 3 ...	7
<i>Pasteurised.</i>			
From bulk milk pasteurised in other districts...	6 ... 2 ...	8

<i>Class of Milk.</i>	<i>Satis- factory.</i>	<i>Unsatis- factory.</i>	<i>Totals.</i>
From bottled milk pasteurised in other districts... ..	14	2	16
From bottled milk pasteurised in the Borough	6	1	7
From milk in course of treatment at plant in Borough	3	—	3
	—	—	—
	44	17	61
	—	—	—

The results show a marked improvement when compared with those of previous years, particularly in relation to pasteurised milk supplied in bulk to local dairymen from large pasteurising plants situated outside the Borough.

Two empty bottles were submitted to test the efficiency of bottle washing. Both gave satisfactory results; in one case the bottle proved to be sterile. This bottle was taken at the small pasteurising plant in the Borough where the processes have proved to be consistently good.

Four samples submitted for the T.B. Inoculation test gave “negative” results.

INSPECTION OF OTHER FOODS.

Animals slaughtered for “Self-suppliers” of Meat.—One hundred and five pigs were inspected. The carcase and organs of one pig were found to be affected with Euraemia and part of another was affected with localized Tuberculosis. The affected meat was voluntarily surrendered for destruction.

Inspection of Food at Retailers’ Shops and Ministry of Food Stores.—Five hundred and five visits for food inspection were made to shops and food stores. The following is a summary of unsound food surrendered for destruction :—

	<i>Cwts.</i>	<i>qrs.</i>	<i>lbs.</i>
Pork	2	2 5
Beef	—	— 32
Bacon and Ham	—	3 7
Fish	2	2 —
Sausages	—	— 12
Fruit	—	2 18
Tea	—	1 20
Sugar	—	— 3
Eggs	—	— 4
Pickles	—	— 8

					<i>Cwts. qrs. lbs.</i>		
Dried Eggs	...	...	...	...	—	—	2
Cereal Flakes	...	...	...	...	—	—	3
Cheese	...	...	...	...	—	—	19
Canned Foods—							
Meat	(121 cans)	...	...	...	1	3	5
Fish	(51 „ )	...	...	...	—	2	9
Milk	(101 „ )	...	...	...	—	2	24
Soup	(9 „ )	...	...	...	—	—	9
Fruit	(4 „ )	...	...	...	—	—	5
Vegetables	(66 „ )	...	...	...	—	2	25
Concentrated							
Pea Soup	(484 „ )	...	...	...	10	3	6
Stewed Steak	(144 „ )	...	...	...	1	1	4
Jam	...	...	...	...	—	3	8
					24	2	4

In addition the following food was reported to the Ministry of Food and collected for salvage :—

Rolled Oats	...	...	...	...	14	—	—
Sugar	...	...	...	...	—	2	—
Beans	...	...	...	...	1	3	4
Fish Dressing	...	...	...	...	2	—	—
Sardines (100 cans)	...	...	...	...	—	—	22
					18	1	26

VI. PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Incidence of Commoner Infectious Diseases since 1935.

		Smallpox	Diphtheria.	Scarlet Fever.	Enteric Fever.	Pneumonia.	Encephalitis Lethargica.	Puerperal Pyrexia.
1936	...	—	36	3	1	32	—	—
1937	...	—	32	44	1	46	—	4
1938	...	—	38	53	—	36	—	4
1939	...	—	6	38	2	17	—	1
1940	...	—	14	25	1	39	—	4
1941	...	—	13	9	—	24	—	1
1942	...	—	25	15	—	16	—	1
1943	...	—	21	26	—	17	—	11
1944	...	—	13	14	—	23	—	—

Reference to Table III. will give the age distribution on the cases notified during 1944.

School Closures.—Nil.

Diphtheria Immunisation.—The campaign for the immunisation of school children against Diphtheria continued, and at the end of 1944, 2,026 school children had been treated together with 826 under school age, giving a total of 2,852.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, TUBERCULOSIS.

AGE—PERIODS	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	—
1	...	1	...	1	...	—	...	—
5	...	1	2	...	...	2	...	—
15	...	7	1	...	...	1	...	—
25	...	5	1	...	1	1	...	1
35	...	5	2	...	...	3	...	—
45	...	6	—	...	...	3	...	—
55	...	4	1	...	...	1	...	—
65 and upwards	...	—	—	—	...	—
TOTALS	...	29	7	...	2	6	6	...

During the year 38 new cases of Tuberculosis were notified, 36 being cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis, and 2 of other Tuberculous disease.

22 cases of Tuberculosis were admitted for treatment at a Sanatorium, and 15 were discharged during the year.

REPORT OF SANITARY INSPECTOR.

A copy of this Report has been received and kept for reference.

TABLE I.

BOROUGH OF WARWICK.

SUMMARY OF SANITARY WORK DONE IN THE SANITARY INSPECTOR'S
DEPARTMENT DURING THE YEAR 1944.

				Inspections and Observations made	Notices served.		Nuisances Abated after Notices.
					Statu- tory.	In- formal	
Dwelling Houses and Schools	...	...	...	1890	4	282	127
Lodging Houses	...	...	...	2	—	—	—
Factories	...	...	...	14	—	3	2
Licensed Premises	...	...	...	12	—	2	2
Canal Boats...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—
Water-closets	...	...	...	138	4	59	49
Drainage	...	...	...	78	1	31	31
Water Supply	...	...	...	8	—	3	3
Cinemas	...	...	...	—	—	—	—
Caravans	...	...	...	8	—	2	2
Dustbins	...	...	...	165	6	63	56
Deposits of Refuse	...	...	...	10	—	4	4
Pigsties	...	...	...	20	—	1	1
Vermin Infestations	...	...	...	161	—	1	1
Shops (Shops Act, 1934)...	...	...	...	17	—	4	3
Animals improperly kept	...	...	...	5	—	2	2
Smoke Nuisances	...	...	...	13	—	2	2
Dairies and Milk Shops	...	...	...	159	—	3	3
Cow Sheds	...	...	...	36	—	2	2
Bakehouses	...	...	...	9	—	—	—
Slaughter Houses, Butchers' and other Retail Food Shops	...	...	...	505	—	—	—
Occasional Slaughter on Private Premises	...	...	...	73	—	—	—
Premises used for Food Preparation	...	...	...	16	1	—	1
Miscellaneous Nuisances	...	...	...	13	—	6	6
TOTALS	...	...	...	3352	16	470	297

Seizures and Surrenders of Unwholesome Food	...	...	No. 130
Samples of Milk taken for bacteriological examination	...	...	61
Samples of Milk taken for biological tests	...	...	4
Lots of Infected Bedding, Disinfected or Destroyed	...	...	12
Houses Disinfected after cases of Infectious Disease	...	...	48

J. BULLOCK, Sanitary Inspector

TABLE II.
BOROUGH OF WARWICK.

VITAL STATISTICS OF WHOLE DISTRICT DURING 1944 AND PREVIOUS YEARS.

YEAR.	Population estimated to Middle of each Year.	BIRTHS.		NETT DEATHS BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT.			
		Nett.		Under 1 Year of age.		At all Ages.	
		Number.	Rate.	Number.	Rate per 1,000 Nett Births.	Number.	Rate.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1938	14,020	234	16.6	12	52	184	13.1
1939	14,200	239	16.9	7	26	145	10.3
1940	13,870	219	15.8	11	48	197	14.2
1941	15,240	242	15.9	9	36	195	12.8
1942	15,200	280	18.4	9	32	168	11.0
1943	14,900	277	18.6	15	54	180	12.1
1944	14,300	310	21.7	7	23	171	11.9

VITAL STATISTICS IN ENGLAND AND WALES, 1944.

ENGLAND AND WALES.

*Birth-rate, Death-rate, and Infantile Mortality during the Year 1944.
(Provisional Figures).*

Annual Rate per 1,000 Population.

				Live Births	Still Births.	Deaths.	Deaths under one year to 1,000 Births.
England and Wales	...	...	...	17.6	0.50	11.6	46
126 Great Towns, including London				20.3	0.64	13.7	52
148 Smaller Towns	...	...	...	20.9	0.61	12.4	44
London	...	...	...	15.0	0.42	15.7	61

TABLE III.
BOROUGH OF WARWICK.

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED DURING THE
YEAR 1944.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	Number of Cases notified.								Total cases removed to Hospital	Total Deaths.
	At all Ages.	At Ages—Years.								
		Under 1.	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 45.	45 to 65.	65 and upwards.		
Small-pox										
Plague										
Diphtheria (including Mem- branous Croup)	13	.....	2	5	3	3	.....	.....	13	1
Erysipelas	1	.....					1	.....	
Scarlet Fever	14	.....	1	11	1	1	.....	.....	9	.....
Typhus Fever										
Enteric Fever										
Pneumonia	23	.....	1	.....	6	8	6	2	.....	7
Malaria										
Dysentery										
Puerperal Pyrexia										
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis	2	.....	1	.....	1	.....			
Poliomyelitis										
Encephalitis Lethargica										
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	3	3								
Polio-Encephalitis										
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	36	.....	2	3	8	12	11	.....	.....	11
Other forms of Tuberculosis	2	...	1	.....		1	.....	...	.....
Totals	94	3	8	19	19	25	18	2	22	19

Isolation Hospitals: Heathcote Joint Isolation Hospital
(Warwick M.B.)

Joint Small-pox Hospital (Fosse, in Southam R.D.)

TABLE IV
BOROUGH OF WARWICK.

CAUSES OF DEATH DURING THE YEAR 1944.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	MALES.	FEMALES.
All Causes	80	91
1 Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers ...	—	—
2 Cerebro Spinal Fever	—	—
3 Scarlet Fever	—	—
4 Whooping Cough	—	—
5 Diphtheria	—	1
6 Tuberculosis of Respiratory System ...	6	5
7 Other Forms of Tuberculosis	—	—
8 Syphilitic Diseases	—	—
9 Influenza	—	—
10 Measles	—	—
11 Ac. Polio-Myel and Polio-Enceph. ...	—	—
12 Ac. Infant Enceph.	—	—
13 Cancer of B. Cav. and Oesoph (M.) Uterus (F.)	1	—
14 Cancer of Stomach and Duod.	4	3
15 Cancer of Breast	—	5
16 Cancer, other Sites	9	7
17 Diabetes	1	2
18 Intra Cran. Vasc. Lesions... ..	7	10
19 Heart Disease	30	31
20 Other Dis. Circ. Sys.	1	1
21 Bronchitis	2	—
22 Pneumonia	5	2
23 Other Resp. Diseases	2	2
24 Ulcer of Stomach and Duod.	1	—
25 Diarrhoea (under 2 years)... ..	—	1
26 Appendicitis	—	—
27 Other Digestive Diseases	1	—
28 Nephritis	—	1
29 Puer. and Post Abort Sepsis	—	1
30 Other Maternal Causes	—	—
31 Premature Birth	1	1
32 Con. Mal., Birth Inj., etc.... ..	—	2
33 Suicide	—	2
34 Road Traffic Accidents	1	1
35 Other Violent Causes	—	2
36 All Other Causes	8	11

